

third pair of legs on the surface of the leaf. This produced quite a noticeably audible sound especially on a hard leaf such as oak. The text books report the third pair of legs to be inflated like "boxing gloves" in this genus, but I have not seen any comment as to the function of this feature.

On examination the terminal segment of the third pair of legs, although rounded and inflated dorsally has an anvil shaped downward projecting point with a short hard tip. This seems to be designed to be struck against the leaf during the drumming movements which are very rapid. So rapid that the third pair of legs becomes "a blurr". Although the head also is raised up aggressively towards the challenge no obvious fluid was seen escaping from the mouth. When the larvae were larger they tended to be more inclined to wriggle off backwards rather than responding by drumming but if sufficiently provoked or when cornered they also would drum quite loudly on any hard substratum such as an oak leaf or the plastic lid of a container.

I imagine this alarm response would be to deter a predator, perhaps a small bird or more probably an insect predator such as a predatory bug. Also, however, when a number of these larvae were artificially placed into a new container they could be heard rattling and drumming away whenever one of their number came too close, and certainly in captivity this seemed to keep them apart on their food plant. — Dr. A. N. B. SIMPSON, 29 Greenway, Collets Green, Powick, Worcester.

PERIDEA ANCEPS GOEZE: TREPIDA ESP. (GREAT PROMINENT) IN NOVEMBER. — On the 8th November 1983, my brother Michael and myself spent the evening near Sixpenny Handley, Dorset with the aid of a m.v. light successfully locating *Ptilophora plumigera* (Plumed Prominent). After the appearance of six *P. plumigera*, we were much surprised at the arrival on the sheet of a fresh *Peridea anceps*. — E. G. SMITH, Bullen Hill Farm, Ashton Common, Trowbridge, Wilts. [This would seem to be a case of a second generation specimen of *anceps*, though we are only aware of one other such example on record. On the 7th October 1977, Dr. H. G. Parker captured a worn male of this species near Builth Wells, Breconshire, which specimen we have seen. — EDITOR].

THE LONG-TAILED BLUE: LAMPIDES BOETICUS L. IN SOMERSET. — As recorder of lepidoptera for the Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society, I have received the following note from Mr. L. A. Haldane of Staple Fitzpaine, Somerset: "Undoubtedly my most interesting find was *Lampides boeticus* (The Long-tailed Blue). This alighted on a leaf near me in the forestry on the Blackdowns above our house on 7th August 1983. I had a very good, close look at it, the underside is unmistakable and it is well known to me from East Africa where it is common." — B. W. MOORE, F.R.E.S., Church Cottage, Church Lane, Batheaston, Bath.